

CONFIDENTIAL PTO6888

PAGE 01 HARARE 07263 01 OF 02 281020Z  
ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AGRE-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	COME-00
	USNW-00	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EUR-00
	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	VC-00	HHS-01	H-01	SSA-01	TEDE-00
	INR-00	IO-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	DCP-01	NSAE-00
	OES-01	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00
	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	IRM-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00
	R-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00

/012W

-----B05B7D 281021Z /38

FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7894  
INFO NSC WASHDC  
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 HARARE 007263

SIPDIS

NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH

LONDON FOR CHARLES GURNEY

PARIS FOR BISA WILLIAMS

NAIROBI FOR PFLAUMER

PASS USAID FOR A/AID R.MCCALL, AA/AFR V. DERRYCK AND  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HARARE 07263 01 OF 02 281020Z  
AFR/SA C. PALMA

PASS USTR FOR ROSA WHITAKER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/28/2010  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [EAGR](#) [EALD](#) [PINR](#) [ZI](#)  
SUBJECT: LAND TASK FORCE TRIES TO PUT BEST FACE ON  
FAST TRACK RESETTLEMENT EXERCISE

REF: HARARE 7163 AND PREVIOUS

CLASSIFIED BY CHARGE D'AFFAIRES EARL M. IRVING FOR  
REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

11. (C) UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (UNDP) RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE VICTOR ANGELO HOSTED A MEETING ON DECEMBER 21 FOR SELECTED HEADS OF MISSION WITH MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE'S LAND TASK FORCE THAT INCLUDED MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC WORKS AND NATIONAL HOUSING IGNATIUS CHOMBO, MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SIMBA MAKONI, MINISTER OF LANDS, AGRICULTURE AND RESETTLEMENT JOSEPH MADE, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN VICE PRESIDENT MSIKA'S OFFICE OLIVIA MUCHENA. THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS TO ACQUAINT KEY DONORS WITH THE EVOLVING VIEWS OF AND STEPS TAKEN BY THE TASK FORCE WITH RESPECT TO THE CURRENT LAND REFORM AND RESETTLEMENT EXERCISE. THE MEETING WAS CONVENED SHORTLY AFTER UNDP ADMINISTRATOR MARK MALLOCH BROWN'S LETTER TO PRESIDENT MUGABE (REFTEL) WAS DELIVERED, BUT THE MINISTERS BEGGED OFF DISCUSSING IT, AS THEY HAD NOT YET SEEN IT.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HARARE 07263 01 OF 02 281020Z

12. (C) CHOMBO DOMINATED THE MEETING AND COVERED A LOT OF WELL-TROD GROUND, SAYING LAND REFORM IN ZIMBABWE WAS IRREVERSIBLE AND THAT IT WAS "UNHEALTHY" TO CONTINUE TO DEBATE THE ISSUE. HE WAVED AWAY THE RESULTS OF THE 1998 LAND DONORS' CONFERENCE THAT PRODUCED NO FUNDS, A FACT THAT FORCED THE GOVERNMENT TO "GO IT ALONE" IN ORDER TO ACQUIRE LAND AND RESETTLE PEOPLE ON IT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. HE ALSO SAID THAT ONCE THE GOALS OF THE FAST-TRACK RESETTLEMENT EXERCISE WERE ACCOMPLISHED, THE "FINANCE MINISTER CAN COME UP WITH POLICIES TO PICK UP THE ECONOMY." HOWEVER, HE CONCEDED THAT "WE ARE AMENABLE TO DONORS ASSISTING US AFTER ACQUISITION." HE STATED THAT THE COMMERCIAL FARMERS UNION MASQUERADES AS A PRESSURE GROUP THAT DOES NOT REPRESENT MORE THAN 20 PERCENT OF ITS MEMBERSHIP, AND WAS BLOCKING PROGRESS USING THE COURTS AND "BREATHING TERROR" INTO ITS MEMBERS WHO WOULD WANT TO COOPERATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT. CHOMBO STIFF-ARMED ANY CALLS BY THE FOREIGN HEADS OF MISSION FOR A RETURN TO THE RULE OF LAW, SAYING THE WORDS STRUCK FEAR INTO PEOPLE'S HEARTS IN ZIMBABWE AS, IN HEARING THEM, THEY WERE REMINDED OF THE DAILY, DRACONIAN EDICTS

ISSUED BY RHODESIAN FRONT LAW AND ORDER MINISTER LARDNER  
BECK.

13. (C) THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC WORKS AND NATIONAL  
HOUSING MINISTER COUNTERED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS  
FOLLOWING ITS OWN LAW AND RULES ON LAND REFORM. IT HAD  
DELISTED 190 FARMS, SOME OF WHICH FALL UNDER ITS  
CRITERIA OF LAND THAT WILL NOT BE ACQUIRED, FOR EXAMPLE  
CONSERVANCIES, CHURCH PROPERTY, EXPORT ZONES, LAND THAT  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 HARARE 07263 01 OF 02 281020Z  
MET FOREIGN INVESTMENT CRITERIA, AND SOME NOT. THE  
GOVERNMENT, HE CONTINUED, WOULD MOVE "DEMONSTRATORS" OFF  
LAND THAT WAS NOT TARGETED FOR ACQUISITION. THE  
GOVERNMENT ALSO HAD INTRODUCED THE CONCEPT OF  
"ACQUISITION BY CONSENT," WHEREBY A COMMERCIAL FARMER  
WOULD GIVE UP A PORTION OF LAND NORMALLY NOT USED IN  
FARMING FOR RESETTLEMENT AND WOULD BE ALLOWED TO KEEP  
THE CORE AREA FOR HIS BUSINESS.

14. (C) AFTER CHOMBO CONCEDED THAT THE GOVERNMENT COULD  
HAVE DONE A BETTER JOB OF COMMUNICATING ITS POLICIES AND  
ACTIONS, LANDS, AGRICULTURE AND RESETTLEMENT MINISTER  
MADE EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD ACQUIRED THE  
INITIAL 804 FARMS LISTED IN JUNE AND THAT THE PROCESS BY  
WHICH IT HAD DONE SO MET WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE  
LAW. ACQUISITION ORDERS FOR THE BALANCE OF 2,000 FARMS  
WOULD BE ISSUED IN FEBRUARY AND MARCH 2001 AND THE  
COMPENSATION COMMITTEE HAD ALREADY MET TO ASSESS THE  
COST TO THE GOVERNMENT. HE ALSO LAUNCHED A LONG,  
SINUOUS, EXPLANATION OF HOW THE LAND REFORM PROCESS WAS  
NOT MEANT TO DISRUPT THE STABILITY OF COMMERCIAL  
AGRICULTURE, THE BACKBONE OF ZIMBABWE'S ECONOMY, AND  
CONCLUDED, "IN THE POLITICAL ARENA, WE MUST ACCEPT THAT  
YOU HAVE YOUR CONSTITUENCY AND WE HAVE OURS."  
UNDERSCORING THE OSTENSIBLE ORDERLINESS OF THE  
GOVERNMENT'S LAND REFORM PROCESS, MINISTER OF STATE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL PTQ7200

PAGE 01 HARARE 07263 02 OF 02 281020Z  
ACTION AF-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AGRE-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CIAE-00	COME-00
	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOT-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EUR-00	FAAE-00
	FBIE-00	VC-00	HHS-01	H-01	SSA-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	IO-00	L-00	VCE-00	AC-01	DCP-01	NSAE-00	OES-01
	OIC-02	OMB-01	OPIC-01	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00
	P-00	SP-00	STR-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	R-00	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	SWCI-00	/012W

-----B05B84 281021Z /38

R 281020Z DEC 00  
FM AMEMBASSY HARARE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7895  
INFO NSC WASHDC  
SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 HARARE 007263

SIPDIS

NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR GAYLE SMITH

LONDON FOR CHARLES GURNEY

PARIS FOR BISA WILLIAMS

NAIROBI FOR PFLAUMER

PASS USAID FOR A/AID R.MCCALL, AA/AFR V. DERRYCK AND  
AFR/SA C. PALMA

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 HARARE 07263 02 OF 02 281020Z

PASS USTR FOR ROSA WHITAKER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 12/28/2010  
TAGS: PGOV EAGR EALD PINR ZI  
SUBJECT: LAND TASK FORCE TRIES TO PUT BEST FACE ON  
FAST TRACK RESETTLEMENT EXERCISE

MUCHENA CHIMED IN THAT DETAILED PLANS EXISTED AS TO WHAT  
WOULD BE DONE WITH EVERY FARM IDENTIFIED FOR ACQUISITION  
IN HER MASHONALAND EAST CONSTITUENCY.

15. (C) COMMENT: THE MEETING MARKED THE FIRST  
OPPORTUNITY FOR KEY DONORS TO MEET FACE-TO-FACE AND  
EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH GOVERNMENT CABINET MEMBERS. THE  
PECKING ORDER WAS CLEAR: CHOMBO, FOLLOWED (DISTANTLY) BY  
MUCHENA, MAKONI AND MADE. THE MINISTERS SEEMED TO HAVE  
AN ANSWER FOR EVERY ARGUMENT THE WESTERN AMBASSADORS

MIGHT ADVANCE; CLEARLY THESE HAD BEEN DEBATED WITHIN THE COUNCILS OF STATE AND PARTY HERE. TWO THINGS STRUCK US AS EYEBROW RAISING. THE FIRST WAS CHOMBO'S RELEGATION OF THE ECONOMY TO SOMETHING TO BE THOUGHT ABOUT AFTER THE REAL BUSINESS OF GOVERNMENT WAS ACCOMPLISHED. THE SECOND WAS THE ARROGANCE OF THIS GOVERNMENT THAT THINKS IT HAS THE MONOPOLY ON TRUTH AND JUSTICE AND INVITES THE DONOR COMMUNITY TO FUND ITS SOCIAL ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT UNCRITICALLY. THE MINISTERS ONLY ENTERTAINED MEETING WITH THE DONORS BECAUSE THERE'S A CREEPING REALIZATION WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT THAT WITHOUT RESOURCES, THE FAST-TRACK RESETTLEMENT EXERCISE WILL FAIL. ON THE BASIS OF THE ATTITUDES AND NEGOTIATING

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 HARARE 07263 02 OF 02 281020Z

SKILLS THEY DISPLAYED, DONORS WERE NOT READY TO SIGN ON. THE GOVERNMENT MIGHT SHIFT THE BLAME ONTO SOMEONE ELSE FOR ITS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC FAILURES, A FACT THAT SHOULD NOT BE LOST SIGHT OF. IF THE GOVERNMENT CONTINUES ALONG THIS PATH WITHOUT MAKING ANY ADJUSTMENTS TO ITS METHODS, ITS REAL LEGACY MAY WELL BE A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS ENGINEERED IN HARARE AND PLACED AT THE DOORS OF THE DONORS FOR CLEAN-UP AND RESOLUTION.

END COMMENT.

IRVING

CONFIDENTIAL

>